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# Study on the Curriculum of English Education in Universities of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Context of General Education

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#### **Abstract**

General English education in university public English is for students of different majors to learn deeply and independently under the guidance of teachers, inherit humanistic traditions, have broad knowledge and broad vision, cultivate their ability of comprehensive language use, and strengthen quality education and international communication. Starting from the meaning of optimizing English education curriculum in Chinese medicine universities in the context of general education, we understand the problems existing in the current university English education curriculum, break the traditional education form by using diversified curriculum, and build an English teaching space with characteristics, in order to help improve the effectiveness of the reform and promote the English curriculum to a new stage of development.

### Keywords

General education; University public English; Curriculum.

## 1. Research on General English Education in Public English Teaching in Universities of Higher Education in Chinese Medicine

Liberal education is a university philosophy, synonymous with liberal education, that refers to the education of knowledge and skills in various fields and emphasizes the inheritance of liberal and humanistic traditions. It is a broad, non-specialized, non-utilitarian education of basic knowledge, skills and attitudes. The development and innovation of quality education has driven several reforms and optimizations of the university English education curriculum. Although the education level in China has been significantly improved in recent years, the English education curriculum cannot meet the developmental needs of students, and is not conducive to enhancing the core literacy of language talents. In order to cultivate excellent TCM doctors, the English curriculum should actively promote its integration with other humanities disciplines, so as to develop students' learning horizons, in order to truly cultivate well-rounded talents, help promote the synergistic development of the English curriculum and general education, enrich the humanistic contents in the English education curriculum, and promote the English education curriculum into a new stage of development.

Professor Wu Dingmin of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, who proposed the theory of "three sets of vehicles" for liberal English education, believes that "foreign language ability, intercultural communication awareness and multidisciplinary knowledge are the basic elements that high-quality talents should possess, and therefore, all three functions are related to quality education. The teaching of English language is the "job" of university English, which is the "individual" function of university English courses; while intercultural communication and general education are the "functions" that university English can take into account. It is the common task of university English and other courses in quality education." In

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fact, general education is one of the most important functions of university English. [1] In fact, liberal education can be integrated with the teaching of public English in universities, and through the understanding of different cultural ways of thinking, students can develop a solid foundation of knowledge in Chinese medicine, a complete personality, the habit of independent thinking and exploration, the transmission of the spirit of science and humanities, and a higher level of grasp of nature and society, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of human resources training.

### 2. Problems in Teaching Public English in Universities of Higher Education in Chinese Medicine

At the present stage, the current situation of university public English teaching in domestic TCM colleges and universities is not very optimistic, and there are basically three problems: First, the lack of coherence in the curriculum, the university English courses focus on cultivating students' listening, reading, writing and translating ability, and the content is relatively scattered, lacking coherence and integration, which is not conducive to the improvement of students' comprehensive literacy, and moreover, not conducive to the enhancement of students' cross-cultural communication ability. Understanding the efforts of international top universities in English teaching materials and analyzing their English teaching materials, we can find that their teaching courses have more basic contents, and students can take relevant language courses based on their own development needs to meet their own development needs. Under the concept of general education, the shortcomings of the curriculum of university English education are becoming more and more obvious. Secondly, university public English teachers are weak in theories of teaching TCM English, and their awareness of specializing in TCM theories is relatively weak, so that general education does not come close to the classroom at all, let alone combining specific students and teaching them according to their needs at the right time and place. Thirdly, no syllabus with TCM characteristics has been designed, and the teaching method of teaching materials is single. TCM higher education institutions still use the same university public English teaching materials as other non-medical schools, and the teaching methods are similar, so that TCM students' learning in the university public English classroom is not linked to any TCM knowledge.

### 3. Strategies of General English Education in TCM Higher Education Institutions

The content of university English courses covers four areas: English language knowledge, English general application skills, English learning strategies, and intercultural communication. General English education is to use English as a tool to develop students' listening and speaking skills and to improve their overall quality in order to meet the needs of social development and national communication. Therefore, general English education requires highly qualified teachers and flexible teaching modes and teaching methods to enable students at different levels to be more fully trained and improved in language application skills.

### 3.1. Innovative Implementation Concept and Sound Curriculum Structure

The content of university English courses covers four areas: English language knowledge, English general application skills, English learning strategies, and intercultural communication. General English education is to use English as a tool to develop students' listening and speaking skills and to improve their overall quality in order to meet the needs of social development and national communication. Therefore, general English education requires highly qualified teachers and flexible teaching modes and teaching methods to enable students at different levels to be more fully trained and improved in language application skills.

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### 3.2. "Student"-centered, Graded Instruction

The implementation of liberal education for contemporary college students is a major trend in the development of higher education at present and in the future [2]. In the final analysis, liberal English education is to cultivate a well-educated, socially responsible, all-rounded person and a citizen of the country. The "student" must be the center of the program, not just a person with vocational skills, but a "whole person" with independent knowledge. In order to maximize the advantages of general English education, graded instruction is the first choice for university English education[3].

### 4. Conclusion

Liberal studies education emphasizes the word "general", i.e., the understanding of literature and science, and the understanding of ancient, modern and foreign countries. It is a humanistic education that transcends utilitarianism, and its application in university public English teaching mainly emphasizes the valuable qualities of independent personality, extensive knowledge and innovative thinking of university students, which is the ultimate pursuit of university education. The integration of English courses and general education can optimize the talent cultivation mode, improve students' cognitive structure and help them improve their social adaptability. Strengthening the organic understanding of general education, promoting the optimization and innovation of English curriculum based on the development needs of college students, can enrich the English teaching materials at the present stage and enhance the ethnicity of the curriculum, which is conducive to the firm cultural and institutional self-confidence of college students.

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